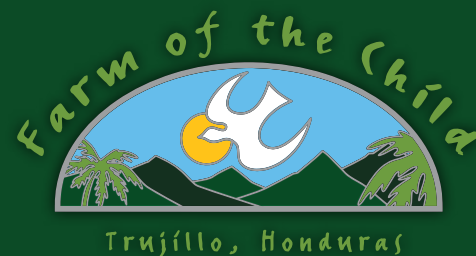


# FRIENDS OF THE FARM

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR SUPPORTERS



FALL 2011



## TRUSTING IN THE SLOW WORK OF GOD

By Alisha Wilkinson

As I am sitting at the table and writing, it is hard to believe that only next week we will be welcoming new volunteer missionaries into our lives here at the Farm. Two years have passed since I arrived, though I feel it should be me descending from the Farm's busitos, fresh and ready to begin my journey here instead of preparing to leave. Last week as our missionary community went on retreat, I was able to sit by the river for a while to reflect upon my time here, and really marvel over the growth and change that has taken place within and all around me. "Above all, trust in the slow work of God," Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit priest, wrote. The river that

flowed past me, whose bed had been carved by hundreds of years, whose banks had been formed by the pummeling of the rocks against each other as they are gradually smoothed away into sand...this is the work of God, and it is a slow labor, quite similar to our life and work here at the Farm.

Our lives at the Farm are not glamorous, and the changes may not be big. It is in the small, steady motions of everyday life that change takes place. Within this rhythm, our kids blossom and find the steady foothold that they need to take root and grow. Our relationships are not built in one decisive moment, but rather over hundreds of shared meals at the kitchen table, in the midst of house cleaning, on the football field, in the classrooms, and in the chapel. Dancing together, painting nails and arm wrestling, laughing until tears come to our eyes, and sometimes sharing tears of pain or sadness. In sitting side by side without speaking, merely content to be in the presence of each other.

As my position this year is of a "house mom" for our adolescent boys in the city of La Ceiba, three hours away from the Farm, I

spend most of my time with my one charge, Arturo. Though we have shared a life together for 11 months now, day to day it is hard to see change. But now each morning, my "son" says goodbye to me before I to him, instead of walking out the door to school without saying anything as he used to. He tells me about his family as we cook dinner together in our little kitchen. We linger over meals, talking about dreams and fishing, and laugh at the silly jokes that are printed in the newspaper. We spend a Saturday afternoon cleaning and rearranging his room, each helping the other. The silences between us as we share evenings together are no longer awkward, but comfortable. And one night, eleven months later, as Arturo stands on the porch contemplating life, I realize how we have come to form a community, and how much I love this silly, quiet, sometimes moody, caring teenage boy, and I rejoice in the moment.

*This is God's slow work, working in me.*

**\$390,000 must be raised by June to keep all program services running at current levels**



Please help us reach the goal and continue serving the children and families of the Farm of the Child

**\$40,700 raised to date**

**SPIRITUALITY**

**SERVICE**

**COMMUNITY**

**SIMPLICITY**

# FRESH FRIENDS OF THE FINCA

Now this is a story all about who  
is coming to the Finca bright and new.  
They're seven new friends with seven different styles;  
Sit yourself down 'cause this might take awhile!

In North California born and raised  
At the Catholic Worker **David** spent most of his days,  
Chilling out, maxing, relaxing all cool.  
Advocating for workers all over the school.

**Erin** was there at Notre Dame too!  
The joy of her life is her little nephews.  
She went to Calcutta 'cause she loves Mama T.  
It gave her new insights and a way to be.

There's another **Erin** too, so don't be alarmed;  
She's the one with the scarves and that Maryland charm.  
She likes to organize, plan, and sports watch too.  
The Catholic student center was her home at Elon U.

Then there's **Ashley** our nurse who is keeping us swell  
With a healthy dose of laughing like... Well,  
She likes to be active but is accident prone.  
She's no fan of snow but calls New England her home.

**Kevin** is our Eagle Scout from Tennessee.  
He has lots of knowledge and creativity.  
Georgetown was his home but for only four years.  
Writing and drawing are things he holds dear.

Outside of Chicago **Allison** was brought up right.  
Mess with St. Dominic, and she'll put up a fight.  
She often exclaims, "I would just die!!!"  
The faces she makes make us laugh 'til we cry.

For **Sara** this mission just couldn't wait.  
After three years at Knoxville she did graduate.  
Her hero's her daddy, who she does emulate.  
From Nashville she hails, and we think she's real great.

From these different paths we'll arrive at the Finca  
With so much to do, see, and thinka.

So that's our story, but that's not all there is  
We have more to share, we have more to give.  
We can't wait to be at the Farm with the kids!



**Back Row:** Ashley Dobson, Erin Ride, Kevin Kuehl,  
Zulena Pescatore (Co-founder), Erin Bradley

**Front Row:** Allison Zilka, David Rivera, Ysmar  
Trejo (Program Director), Sara DePhillips

**Please join us in  
welcoming our new  
missionaries!**

# What was the best thing you did in school this year?

"My favorite thing about this year was learning about the ocean."

**Juan Carlos, Seventh Grade**



**Manuel**



**Daniel**

"The best thing we have done in school this year was play!"

**Daniel, First Grade**

"The best part of this year was celebrating Independence Day and seeing all of the kids' talents in the parade and presentations. It was great to be able to experience a bit of the kids' culture and be a part of it."

**Tami, Missionary, School Administrator**



**Tami**



**Maria**

**Belkis**

**Miriam**

"The best things about this year were being a cheerleader in the Independence Day parade and learning about coral."

**Maria, Fourth Grade**

"This year I learned how to multiply!"

**Manuel, Third Grade**

"The best thing we did this year was making a sea life mural and hanging the animals we made on it."

**Miriam, Fourth Grade**



**Riccy**

**Nolvia**

**Dalila**

"The best thing we've done this year was to go to the Christian middle school in Trujillo and see the science experiments the kids there did."

**Nolvia, Ninth Grade**



**Juan Carlos**

"My favorite thing I did this year was dressing up as Señorita Independencia for the Independence Day parade. I liked it because I didn't have to march; I just got to walk normally."

**Riccy, Eighth Grade**

## PRAYERS & PETITIONS

*We pray, Lord Jesus, for peace in the world, especially for countries without independence or that suffer from war.*

*We place in your hands, Lord, the country of Honduras during this time of year when we remember and celebrate our independence.*

*We pray, Lord, for those who live outside of the light of Your love for lack of fishermen willing to love and serve as You have called us to do.*

*We pray for the children of the world, especially for those who do not have loving parents caring for them, that through Your love and grace they will grow into people who seek to do what is right.*

*We pray for our new missionaries, that You will be with them in this time of transition and continue to prepare their hearts to serve as You have called them to, here at the Farm.*

*Amen.*

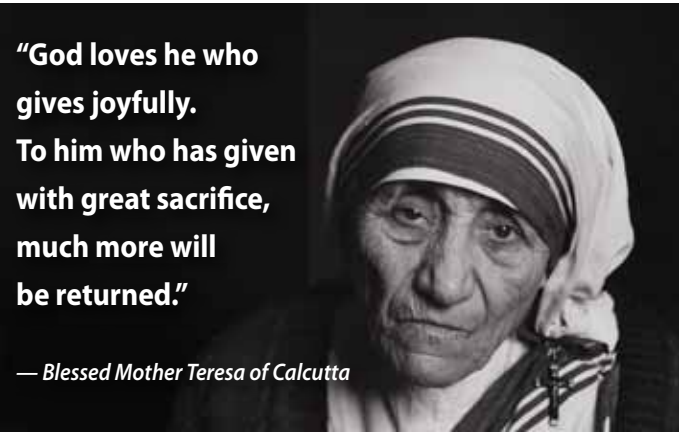


# He has chosen us to build His kingdom

By Ysmary Trejo

The call to be a missionary is to attend to Christ’s message in our life. As Christ called His disciples to accompany Him in proclaiming the Good News, He, too, calls us to proclaim the wonders of His salvation, especially to the poor and marginalized. His call is not a title of honor; it is a vocation of service.

God gave Vincent Pescatore, our founder, the opportunity to be a missionary, together with his family, committed to the service of those in greatest need. From its very beginnings, the Farm has been a mission of service to which others can join in their desire to serve and dedicate themselves to the orphaned and abandoned children of Honduras. And in September of 1995 we received our first volunteer missionaries – Felicia, Adela and Christina – who helped to build this great work of God.



Since then, on October 1st of each year, the feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, the patroness of missionaries, we joyfully receive our newest missionaries – those who are called to leave behind their loved ones and give themselves completely to the children and youth of Honduras, who they have yet to meet but will come to love. They have been chosen by God to follow in Christ’s footsteps, to be disciples, witnesses and followers of the living words of the Gospel. *Deny yourself. Pick up your cross. Follow Me.*



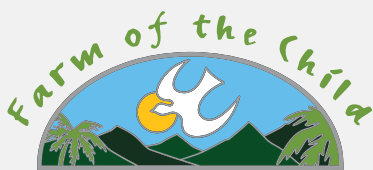
Ysmary Trejo

They come from other countries to unite themselves and give themselves to this community of faith, love and charity, called to live a life of simplicity, spirituality, community, and service. Offering their gifts and talents, illuminated and guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit to a life of self-giving. Teaching and learning the mission that has been given to us, since its inception, to lead God’s children to Him.

This month we receive with open arms eight new missionaries into our home, to form part of this great community, having heard the call to service, as Blessed Mother Teresa once heard: “Go out and serve those in greatest need.”

Joyfully living this vocation,

Ysmary Trejo



1616 Nottingham Knoll Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32225

***We exist because generous people donate money and time to help fulfill our mission — to provide for orphaned Honduran children.***



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